



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,136	03/19/2001	Edward M. Willhide	013495/0015 (B69913)	7589

20594 7590 09/22/2004

CHRISTOPHER J. ROURK
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
P O BOX 688
DALLAS, TX 75313-0688

EXAMINER

DINH, KHANH Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2151

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

2

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,136

Applicant(s)

WILLHIDE ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh Dinh

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/19/2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 8-11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rubin et al. (hereafter Rubin), U.S. Pat. No.6,735,624.

As to claim 1, Rubin discloses a system for providing access to a network comprising:

a management interface system [communication interface (570 fig.5) of a portal server (110 fig.2)] receiving management data from one or more management systems (130 fig.2) that provide the management data for the network (providing data or

programs from the portal server to clients through Radio Frequency links, see fig.2, col.4 lines 19-60).

a portal system (portal server 110 fig.2) coupled to the management interface system, the portal system (portal server 110 fig.2) receiving the management data from the one or more management systems (server 130 fig.2) and presenting the management data in a predetermined format (compressed formats) (see col.6 line 60 to col.7 line 58).

As to claim 3, Rubin discloses a client view system coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving format data and management data and generating client view data (allowing users to create a continuance sequence of information to be displayed on the portal device, see fig.7, col.7 line 61 to col.8 line 33 and col.9 lines 12-56).

As to claim 4, Rubin discloses a channel format system (radio station 210 fig.2) coupled to the portal system (110 fig.2), the channel format system (210 fig.2) receiving channel format data and using the channel format data to interface with one of the management systems (providing data or audio programs to clients and the portal device, see col.4 lines 19-60).

As to claim 5, Rubin discloses a user login system (using authentication system to authenticate users) coupled to the portal system (110 fig.2), the user login system

Art Unit: 2151

receiving user identification input data (user input information) and generating management system login data (providing authentication services according to users' name/password and background information, see fig.6, col.7 lines 17-58).

As to claim 8, Rubin discloses a client view system coupled to the portal system (110 fig.2), the client view system receiving format data and management data and generating client view data (allowing users to create a continuance sequence of information to be displayed on the portal device, see fig.7, col.7 line 61 to col.8 line 33 and col.9 lines 12-56).

As to claim 9, Rubin discloses an element information system coupled to the portal system (110 fig.2), the element information system receiving network element data from one or more network elements (client 140 fig.2) and providing the network element data (client data information) to the portal system (110 fig.2) (see figs.2, 3, col.4 line 31 to col.5 line 47 and col.8 lines 37-65).

As to claim 10, Rubin discloses a system for providing external access to a network through a firewall comprising:

one or more network management service systems (server 130 fig.2).

a portal system (portal server 110 fig.2) coupled to the network (120 fig.2) and the one or more network management service systems, the portal system (110 fig.2)

Art Unit: 2151

receiving network data and network management service system data and compiling the network data and network management service system data into view data (providing data or programs from the portal server to clients through Radio Frequency links, see fig.2, col.4 lines 19-60).

a client view system (140 fig.2) coupled to the portal system, the client view system receiving the view data and generating a graphic user interface to display the view data to a user (client) (allowing users to create a continuance sequence of information to be displayed on the portal device, see fig.7, col.7 line 61 to col.8 line 33 and col.9 lines 12-56).

As to claim 11, Rubin discloses a channel format system (radio Station 210 fig.2) receiving channel format data and using the channel format data to interface with the one or more network management service systems (server 130 fig.2) (providing data or audio programs to clients and the portal device, see col.4 lines 19-60).

As to claim 13, Rubin discloses a client layer that provides visual representation data for a component (enabling users to view data information to be displayed, see fig.7, col.7 line 61 to col.8 line 33 and col.10 lines 6-59).

As to claim 14, Rubin discloses a method for providing access to a network comprising:
receiving network data from one or more sources (Radio Station 210 fig.2) (radio Station sending data and programs to server and client), assembling the network data

Art Unit: 2151

into one or more channels and presenting the channels to a user (providing data or programs from the portal server to clients through Radio Frequency links, see fig.2, col.4 lines 19-60).

As to claim 15, Rubin discloses receiving network data from one or more sources (210 fig.2) comprises receiving network data from one or more network management systems (receiving data information from server 130 and portal server 110 fig.2) (see col. 5 line 8 to col.6 line 16 and col.7 lines 17-58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 2, 6, 7, 12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin in view of Pulliam et al. (hereafter Pulliam), U.S. pat. No.6,609,108.

As to claim 2, Rubin's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Rubin does not specifically disclose a workflow system. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses a workflow system (workflow manger 622 fig.16) for providing one or more workflows [work flow manager for processing and controlling consumer orders from a portal server, see fig.16, col.19 lines 7-65]. It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's workflow server into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones of the customer-specific variants and to provide a proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments (see col.20 lines 1-52).

As to claim 6, Rubin's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Rubin does not specifically disclose a workflow edit system. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses a workflow edit system (dealer 1160 fig.16) for receiving workflow from an operator [initiating an order change from a customer, see fig.16, col.19 lines 7-65]. It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's workflow edit system into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones of the customer-specific variants and to provide a

proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments (see col.20 lines 1-52).

As to claim 7, Rubin's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Rubin does not specifically disclose a workflow execution system. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses a workflow execution system (644 fig.16) for execute predefined workflows (orders) (placing orders to the system, see fig.16, col.19 lines 7-65). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's workflow execution system into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones of the customer-specific variants and to provide a proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments (see col.20 lines 1-52).

As to claim 12, Rubin's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Rubin does not specifically disclose a web server- layer that generates *.HTML data for a component and performs translation of data for the component. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses a web server- layer that generates *.HTML data for a component and performs translation of data for the component (using browser software applications to create documents and sending information to the servers, see fig.3, col.7 line 46 to col.8 line 59). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Pulliam's

Art Unit: 2151

teachings into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize general purpose web pages and allowed users to download/access web pages stored on servers connected to the Internet (see col.7 lines 46-64).

As to claim 16, Rubin's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Rubin does not specifically disclose preventing the operation of one or more of the group including a TOP call command, a hard-coded URL, a hard-coded frame reference, or rule-based text manipulation of proxied data sources. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses preventing the operation of one or more of the group including a TOP call command, a hard-coded URL, a hard-coded frame reference, or rule-based text manipulation of proxied data sources (returning only orders matching customer's input requests including URL image orders, see fig.8, col.14 line 1 to col.15 line 20). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Pulliam's teachings into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones of the customer-specific variants and to provide a proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments.

As to claim 17, Rubin discloses a method for generating a user request comprising: selecting one or more application data fields (selecting radio station for broadcasting

data and programs) for a first application and creating a process map (configuring a portal device to process data information, see fig.2, col.4 lines 19-60).

assembling the data fields (selecting a geographical region based on number of users) and the process map into a process and storing the process (see col.4 line 61 to col.5 line 47).

Rubin does not specifically disclose a workflow. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses a workflow (using workflow manger 622 fig.16) for providing one or more workflows [work flow manager for processing and controlling consumer orders from a portal server, see fig.16, col.19 lines 7-65]. It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's workflow server into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones of the customer-specific variants and to provide a proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments (see col.20 lines 1-52).

As to claim 18, Rubin does not specifically disclose selecting one or more workflow application data fields for a second workflow application, modifying the workflow process map to include the second workflow application data fields, assembling the first workflow application data fields; the second workflow application data fields, and the workflow process map into the workflow process and storing the workflow process a workflow system. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses selecting one or more workflow application data fields (orders from the

Art Unit: 2151

customers with various configuration parameters) for a second workflow application, modifying (initiate a change) the workflow process map to include the second workflow application data fields (see fig.24), assembling the first workflow application data fields; the second workflow application data fields, and the workflow process map into the workflow process and storing the workflow process a workflow system (processing and controlling consumer orders with various configuration parameters, see fig.24, col.22 line 28 to col.23 line 60). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's teachings into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones with various configuration parameters and to provide a proper status history of orders to multiple users in the Web-based environments.

As to claim 19, Rubin does not specifically disclose performing a workflow process test to determine whether the workflow generates acceptable results and storing the workflow process if the workflow generates acceptable results. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses performing a workflow process test to determine whether the workflow generates acceptable results and storing the workflow process if the workflow generates acceptable results (using a tag attribute to indicate the approval, see fig.28) (processing and controlling consumer orders with various configuration parameters and sending a result of orders, see fig.28, col.22 line 28 to col.23 line 60 and col.26 lines 16-60). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary

skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's teachings into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones with various configuration parameters and to allow the workflow manager to response properly to customers' requests in the Web-based environments.

As to claim 20, Rubin does not specifically disclose associating one or more flags with the workflow process; and presenting a user with a user-selectable control to allow the user to execute the workflow when the one or more flags are activated. However, Pulliam in the same network consumer environment discloses associating one or more flags with the workflow process; and presenting a user with a user-selectable control to allow the user to execute the workflow when the one or more flags are activated (using a tag attribute to indicate the approval, see fig.28) (processing and controlling consumer orders with various configuration parameters and sending a result of orders, see fig.28, col.22 line 28 to col.23 line 60 and col.26 lines 16-60). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to implement Pulliam's teachings into the computer system of Rubin to control users' orders because it would have enabled users to customize to individual ones with various configuration parameters and to allow the workflow manager to response properly to customers' requests in the Web-based environments.

Other prior art cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Scarborough et al, US pat. No.6,353,448: Using graphic interface display.
- b. Stephens, Jr. et al, US pat. No.6,557,026: method for converting information from a text format to an audio format.
- c. Flight et al, US pat. No.6,662,199: Customizing hosted application in a communications network.
- d. Ahluwalia, US pat. No.6,728,685: processing online orders to customers with various configurations.
- e. Childress et al., US pat. No.6,735,602: Event monitoring system in a network.

Conclusion

8. Claims 1-20 are rejected.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 308-8528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung, can be reached on (703) 308-6687. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE months from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to response within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (35 U. S. C . Sect. 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(A).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 -9600.



Khanh Dinh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2151
9/17/2004